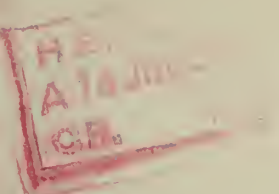


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BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for



1955

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J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR

THE YEAR 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your district in 1955.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	4,596
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1955.	5,930
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955, according to the rate book.	1919
Rateable Value.	£30246
Sum represented by a <b>penny rate</b> .	£126

The district is gradually assuming more suburban and residential character. Situated between two expanding towns and provided with excellent travel facilities this was inevitable. Private building development continues to keep pace with the influx of people substantially engaged in the towns whence they have come. Local employment continues to be found in brick and terra cotta manufacture, stone quarrying and agriculture, and though coal mining also absorbs a portion in the district, for the most part those so occupied now travel outside. Opencast production is still a prominent feature. The Cotton Mills, Engineering Works, Offices and Shops in adjacent townships attract a large section of the female population. Unemployment is minimal.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	70	35	35
Illegitimate.	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	74	37	37
	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district.	-	crude	12.5
		adjusted	13.2

Other live birth statistics introduced for the purpose of comparison.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live births in district during 1955.	67	38	29
Live birth rate for 1955.		crude 12.5. adjusted. 13.2.	
Live birth rate for England and Wales in 1955.			15.0
Still Births.	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	4	1	3
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births.			51
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births in England and Wales.			23.1.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths.	250	132	118
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	crude adjusted		42.2 40.5
Death rate for England and Wales in 1955.			11.7

It must again be observed that the figures relative to the deaths are distorted beyond local significance by the inclusion of the deaths of chronic sick from Billinge Hospital.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births.</u>
Deaths from Puerperal causes.		
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.	Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes.	Nil.	Nil.

<u>Death rate of infants under one year of age.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Death of infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate.	3	1	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
All infants per 1,000 live births.			41
Number of deaths per 1,000 live births in district in 1955.			Nil.
Number of infantile deaths per 1,000 live births in England and Wales in 1955.			24.9



Death rate of infants under one year of age (cont'd).

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).			Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).			Nil.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate.	3	1	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	41
Mortality rate in England and Wales.	17.3

Respiratory Tuberculosis.

Mortality Rate.	Nil.
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General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Pathological Specimens - submitted to Wigan Infirmary.

Bacteriological Examination carried out at Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Nil.

Chemical Analysis carried out at the Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Nil.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

All ambulance transport became vested in the County Authority on the completion of the Ambulance Station near Billinge Hospital. The transfer from Wigan took place on the 16th. October, 1955. The telephone number Wigan 5333 centralises the arrangements at the Hindley centre. The scheme has worked smoothly and efficiently.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The opportunity is afforded under this heading of acknowledging the excellent work done by the District Nurses under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer of Health. Their sympathy, patience and ready co-operation is generally appreciated, and not least by the medical practitioners to whom their services are invaluable.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres. No change.

(e) Hospitals.

The all embracing provisions of the National Health Scheme continued to extend the scope of hospitals available to local patients. Nevertheless, the majority receive their treatment, whether as in-patients or out-patients, at one of the hospitals in the Wigan and Leigh Group. A minority go to the St. Helens hospitals. Special cases have treatment in Manchester or Liverpool hospitals. Infectious cases requiring hospital isolation are usually transported to Whelley.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:-

(1) Water.

As in the case of all districts the consumption of water in Billinge and Winstanley has steadily been increasing in recent years. The following table illustrates the extent of that increase, and is a measure of the anxiety felt by the Council as to the sufficiency of the supply in the future, as we are entirely dependent on other authorities who are themselves short.

Table compiled from successive annual reports to illustrate the increasing consumption of water in the district.  
(Almost 20 million gallons in 16 years.)

1940	46,008,000	gallons
1941	46,709,000	"
1942	47,053,000	"
1943	46,932,000	"
1944	49,778,850	"
1945	53,792,000	"
1946	52,045,000	"
1947	49,376,000	"
1948	53,162,000	"
1949	53,083,000	"
1950	59,592,000	"
1951	60,079,000	"
1952	61,306,000	"
1953	63,565,000	"
1954	61,770,000	"
1955	65,444,000	"

Water Supplied to district.

	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Liverpool.	54,215,000 galls.	54,694,000 galls.
Wigan.	7,420,000 galls.	10,480,000 galls.
Cob Moor.	100,000 galls.	259,000 galls.
Higher Tunnel.	<u>35,000 galls.</u>	<u>21,000 galls.</u>
Total.	<u>61,770,000 galls.</u>	<u>65,444,000 galls.</u>

Average daily consumption of district.	169,252 galls.	179,300 galls.
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Average daily consumption per individual.	28.2 galls.	30.2 galls.
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Average daily supply from Liverpool.	149,800 gallons.
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The quality of the water remained in the highest category, both by chemical and bacteriological standards..

### Water (cont'd).

Already we are tending to exceed the quota in the agreements though without any prospect of any extra allowance being permitted. Confronted with increasing demands from local housing development and the additional requirements - estimated at 20,000 gallons daily in 10 years - from extensions at Billinge Hospital the future contains a real dilemma for this authority. Local possibilities are, therefore, being explored in search of an auxilliary supply. Perhaps the only real safe source in any quantity is that at the Bispham Shale Hole. Here is a sample which is very pure but exceedingly hard.

The Bacteriological report is as follows:-

<u>Bacteria per ml.</u> <u>at 37° C</u>	<u>B.coli</u> <u>per 100 ml.</u>	<u>Total Coliform</u> <u>Organisms per 100 ml.</u>	<u>Cl.welchii.</u>
5	0	0	0

Total Hardness (all carbonate) 144.

The installation of a softening plant would be necessary to make it suitable as a bulk supply. If the quantity tests fulfil expectations this might be worthy of consideration. Otherwise it appears admixture with the water from other sources could only be done in the approximate ratio of 1 in 10 without evoking complaints. In any case reliance should not be placed on the likelihood of a solution in a National Water Scheme. The country wide nature of this problem and the financial involvements to meet it on a national scale constitute a longer term calculation than can be anticipated to provide for the exigence of our own present circumstances. The Council will have to be reconciled to some capital expenditure for water.

### (2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Two Sewage swamps still remain at either end of the district fouling with crude effluent the boundary streams and choking them with sludge. The Rivers Boards, the St. Helens Authority, the householders in the vicinity and the farmers affected are all clamant with protests. Yet it cannot be alleged that the Billinge and Winstanley Council has been indifferent to the situation. Indeed, as earlier reports demonstrate, this Authority has been exercising itself intensely in this matter for many years. Shortly after the end of the war plans were commissioned from a firm of Civil Engineering Contractors to establish modern filtration plants, but tedious land purchase negotiations, the complications of procedure, the consideration of counter proposals and protracted consultations at higher administrative levels contributed such retardation and frustration that earlier hopes were disappointed. However, the recent investigation by a Ministry Inspector before a representative body of officials of all the interested authorities should provide the necessary revival. Every aspect was presented and examined and we established our position with every conviction. In the Northern Sewage area there was no contention but opinions were not unanimous in the Chapel End area where the alternative of joining into the St. Helens Sewers found some favour.

### (3) Rivers and Streams.

There is no industrial pollution of any watercourse in the district. Reference has already been made to the contamination from the Sewage Fields.



(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

Sixteen privy closets were converted to W.C. during the year. In a total number of more than 250 extant, this seems trifling, but hitherto the reduction in privy closets has almost entirely depended on the rate of conversion, the Council contributing £7 towards the cost in each instance. Now in the Slum Clearance programmes to be introduced the demolitions will also account for an appreciable number and accelerated progress towards the complete eradication can be expected. A firmer attitude seems likely to be instituted as well towards those inconsiderate owners who obdurately refuse to co-operate under the prevailing voluntary system and permit offensive privy conditions to remain as a general nuisance.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1955.

No. of Privy middens.	178
No. of closets attached to these middens.	255
No. of pail closets.	4
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens).	2
No. of moveable ashbins.	1297
No. of houses on water carriage system.	1452
No. of fresh water closets.	1764
No. of waste water closets.	Nil.

(5) Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector who includes a detailed account of these activities in his report. Tipping continued on the quarry site adjoining Orrell Brick and Tile Works. Some control is exercised but I do not consider the site ideal and the harbourage it affords for rats as well as the tendency to fire are constant anxieties. Paper is collected separately for salvage.

The regular emptying of privy middens seems to be a matter of some difficulty. Complaints have been made of overfull ashpits. This is a responsibility which should not be overlooked. To empty all twice in the year it should be the aim to clear on an average seven each week.

(6) Shops.

The Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences etc. are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meaning of the acts, and reports to the County Council.

(7) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

(Vide Sanitary Inspector's Report).

(8) Smoke Abatement.

There are 5 factory and works chimneys in the district and 10 observations were made during the year. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes in the hour. No infringement was observed during the year.

(9) Swimming Baths and Pools.

None - Public or private in this district.



(10) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The routine disinfection of the household goods of those transferring to new Council Houses is not a practice in this district. The Council's resolution will only permit disinfection where the need is patent. No such instance arose in the year, the method employed where necessary is spraying with insecticide and fumigation with sulphur.

(11) Schools.

The 4 schools in the district are all supplied with a piped water supply from the public mains and adequate toilet facilities. The general health of the pupils continued satisfactory and attendance figures were well maintained.

(12) Offensive Trades.

There are none in the district.

(13) Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the district.

(14) Canal Boats.

There are none in the district.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Few authorities can have a relatively bigger housing programme in hand than Billinge and Winstanley Urban District Council. The property survey prepared as authorised by the Ministry of Health scheduled 401 substandard houses in a district total of 1834 (almost 22%). In the main these are old stone cottages principally of the last century or even before in various stages of dilapidation. Roof defects, perished woodwork, dampness, uneven flag floors and primitive sanitary provisions are generally prevalent. Siting too is frequently a detrimental feature where the houses abut on to the public pavement or have high ground rising sheer behind.

The scheme to deal with this large number is based on a fifteen year period. Calculated thus 26 houses would be the proportion to be accomplished per year. The present rate of construction does not encourage hopes of any such fulfilment. In fact the building operations are so tardy that the twenty allocated as last year's quota will scarcely all be completed this year, and to accentuate the need overcrowding, soon to be relegated from prior consideration in rehousing, still recurs with disturbing frequency. Applications from lodgers living in overcrowded conditions on December 31st. 1955 amounted to 33 involving 222 persons, to which may be added 26 householders comprising 117 persons. These latter, however, may to a great extent be absorbed in the slum clearance operations, yet then might be equally overcrowded in a council house.

The need thus aggravated for further housing development can hardly be in doubt. The Cob Moor Site containing 58 units of various types will satisfy some of the immediate needs and the extension to the Claremont Estate will accommodate a further 20. Wherever possible subsequently the redevelopment of cleared sites would serve the best interests of the community without encroaching too much on agriculture. This idea is entertained in the Fair View Clearance Area.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1) By the Local Authority.	-	10
(2) By other Local Authorities.	-	Nil.
(3) By other bodies or persons.	-	25

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	107
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose.	175
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit.	
(a) Number found during year.	39
(b) Number (or estimated no) at end of year.	401
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	68

Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954):-

(1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year:		
(a) Unfit houses	Nil.	
(b) Other houses	Nil.	
(2) Number of persons displaced.	Nil.	
(3) Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936 -		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	-	-
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	2	5
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12).	-	-
(b) Housing Act 1949 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3 (2).	Nil.	
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	Nil.	
(2) Repairs during the year:		
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Act.		58

Housing (cont'd).

3. 2(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied:-

(i) By Owners. 10

(ii) By local authority in default of owners. Nil.

(c) Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (sections 9,10,11 and 16)  
Houses made fit:-

(i) By Owners. Nil.

(ii) By local authority in default of owners. Nil.

(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act 1954:

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved  
and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5). Nil.

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7. Nil.

(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above. Nil.

(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6). Nil.

Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding.

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 59  
(b) Number of families dwelling therein. 93  
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein. 339

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 12

(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 6  
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 27

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were 53 Cowkeepers (including dairy farmers) and 13 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register. Dealers Licences were issued in respect of 6 Suppliers of Tuberculin Tested milk, 6 Suppliers of Accredited milk and 6 Retail Distributors of Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

The Lancashire County Council undertakes the duties of sampling in the area.

(b) Meat and other foods.

There is no slaughterhouse within the district. All shops, stalls and vehicles where food is prepared were inspected but no cause for complaint was found, and no infectious disease was reported in connection with persons dealing with such food. The inspection of locally slaughtered animals is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector who includes in his report an account of the work.



SECTION E.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases:-

Measles prevailed epidemically in Greenfield House in February when 13 cases were notified and in the general district throughout the latter half of April, the whole of May, June, July and August. Only two notifications of measles were received after this.

Other diseases - both notifiable and non-notifiable, were of sporadic incidence and negligible extent.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year. The last notification of diphtheria recorded in the register is dated 3rd. July, 1947 - almost 9 years without a case. This should be adequate testimony to the efficacy of immunisation.

The number receiving the primary prophylactic course during the year was 62 and 51 older children were given a reinforcing injection. Combined injections against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus are also becoming more popular. During the year 51 pre-school children were immunised against Whooping Cough with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or in combination with Diphtheria and Tetanus.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1955 (AFTER CORRECTIONS).

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Hospitals.	
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years.										Total Deaths.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District.
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 & over	Age Unknown		
Scarlet Fever.	7	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (exc. rubella).	168	1	48	47	70	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	7	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro Enteritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	182	1	49	55	75	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The method employed with regard to premises was fumigation with formaldehyde gas. Eight houses were so treated. Fomites are disinfested in the autoclave by steam.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis. The notification of tuberculosis in the area is efficient, there being no instance of non-notified tuberculosis death.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75&	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1		3		-		-	

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops.

There was no offence under the Factory Act 1937 during the year under review. The Sanitary Inspector, working in liaison with E. . . Inspector of Factories, maintained effective supervision of local factories and workshops from the public Health aspect.

The following is a list of the factories and workshops operating in the district 1954.

Collieries.	2
Opencast Mining Plant.	2
Stone Quarries.	2
Boot and Clog Repairing.	2
Brickworks.	2
Joinery.	4
Government Radar Station.	1

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

1. Installation of Sewage Disposal Works.
2. Augmentation of Water Supply.
3. Continuation of conversion of privy middens.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my tenth annual report as Sanitary Inspector of your district.

The return of Mr. T. Nicholson from the forces in July, 1955, enabled a more detailed inspection of drains and houses in course of erection to be done. In connection with the inspection of old property the area known as Fair View was inspected in detail and a Clearance Order placed upon 27 houses in that area.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

On behalf of the County Council all shops were inspected twice during the year. The shops in the district number 31 and consist of:-

Hardware	1
Grocers	21
Butchers	2
Shoe Repairers	2
Fish and Chip	3
General	1
Drapers	1

The cleanliness of the shops was found to be satisfactory, and there was only one shop, a small general store, where it was necessary to have conditions improved.

The following is a list of food condemned during the year:-

<u>Commodity.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>No. of tins.</u>
Corned Beef.	6 lb.	4
Jellied Veal.	4 lb.	2
Victoria Plums.	1¼ lb.	5
Luncheon Meat.	¾ lb.	11
Stewed Steak.	½ lb.	17
Lamb Tongues.	¾ lb.	10
Beans.	½ lb.	3
Pears.	15½ oz.	3
Peaches.	15 oz.	3
Tomatoes.	14 oz.	5
Oranges.	11 oz.	2
Full Cream Milk.	2 pints.	10
Fruit Salad.	15 oz.	2
Butter.	24 lbs.	
Bacon.	23 lbs.	

The meat offered for sale to the public was slaughtered at Wigan Corporation and St. Helens Slaughterhouses. The number of cottage pigs kept declined during the year, only 7 being inspected as against 19 in 1954.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of refuse was made throughout the district, apart from the holiday periods and the inclement weather in December, but there was no real hardship caused to members of the public through the collection becoming temporarily spasmodic. Refuse continues to be tipped at the rear of Orrell Brick and Tile Works and we are fortunate that there is available there a large area of land which will satisfy the Council's requirements for a number of years to come.

Refuse Collection. (cont'd).

The Refuse Wagon, which has given admirable service, is to be replaced in the new year.

As stated in the report for 1954 the greatest anxiety so far as refuse collection is concerned is the refuse from privy middens. The total number of middens on the 31st. December, 1955 was 178 against 194 in 1954. Again I wish to draw attention to the fact that I feel that the Council will have to resort to using statutory powers under the Public Health Act of 1936 if this number is to be reduced in a comparatively short period.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.